

2008-2011 Work Program Pursuant to the U.S. - Jordan Joint Statement on Environmental Technical Cooperation

The Joint Forum on Environmental Technical Cooperation (“Joint Forum”), established pursuant to the “United States-Jordan Joint Statement on Environmental Technical Cooperation,” hereby defines a Work Program through 2011 that establishes specific goals and objectives and areas for cooperation that reflect national priorities for each Government.

Background

The Governments of the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan executed a Joint Statement on Environmental Technical Cooperation on October 24, 2000, corresponding to the twenty-sixth day of Rajab, 1421. In so doing, the Governments recognized that cooperation is a principal means of ensuring that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive and promoting the optimal use of resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development.

Through the Joint Statement, the Governments established the Joint Forum on Environmental Technical Cooperation with a mandate “to advance environmental protection in Jordan by developing environmental technical cooperation initiatives, which take into account the environmental priorities, and which area agreed to by the two governments.”

Work Plan Goals

The Joint Forum recognizes that through implementation of this Work Program it is striving to achieve the following long-term goals:

- Compliance with obligations in the Environment Chapter of the United States Jordan Free Trade Agreement:
(1) to strive to ensure that the Parties’ environmental laws provide for high levels of environmental

protection and to strive to continue to improve those laws; and (2) to effectively enforce the Parties' environmental laws;

- Improved protection and conservation of the environment, including natural resources;
- Transparency and public participation in environmental decision-making;
- A culture of environmental protection and compliance with environmental laws through, among other things, the promotion of economic opportunities, voluntary measures to enhance environmental performance, and job creation.

Priority Areas for Cooperation

The Joint Forum establishes the following priority areas for cooperation with corresponding objectives. These priority areas reflect and focus the “Selected Environmental Technical Cooperation Programs”¹ listed in the Annex to the October 24, 2000, Joint Statement.

1. INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY STRENGTHENING FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, INCLUDING NATURAL RESOURCE-RELATED LAWS

Objectives: To exchange information and experiences on environmental (including natural resource-related) legal and regulatory regimes, enforcement and compliance policies, tools and practices, and approaches to environmental protection and natural resource management that contribute to strengthening the effectiveness, implementation, and enforcement of environmental and natural resource-related laws and regulations in the United States and Jordan.

¹ Protection of Water Resources, Management of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Environmental Laws and Regulations, Environmental Impact Assessments, Environmental Capacity Building, Business Partnerships and Exchanges, Conservation of Nature Reserves and Protected Areas, Coastal Protection and Preservation of Coral Reefs in the Gulf of Aqaba.

2. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS, AND OTHER ECOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT ECOSYSTEMS

Objectives: To work with national, regional, and local governments in Jordan to (1) promote and encourage the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and all of its components and levels, including plants, animals, and habitats; and (2) improve management of protected areas and other ecologically important ecosystems, including through market-based mechanisms.

3. IMPROVED PRIVATE SECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Objectives: To encourage existing enterprises in Jordan to develop and adopt sound environmental and natural resource management practices and technologies, and to show that doing so not only benefits the environment and natural resource conservation, but can be done in a manner consistent with maintaining international competitiveness and international agreements.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, TRANSPARENCY, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING AND ENFORCEMENT

Objectives: To (1) share experiences on involving the public in decision-making regarding environmental matters; (2) enhance openness and transparency in regulatory and program implementation; and (3) exchange knowledge and experiences regarding environmental education strategies and programs, with a principal focus on basic and community-level education.

More specific activities that the Parties plan to undertake jointly within each priority area are listed in the following matrix. The objectives and activities set forth in this Work Program may be updated and modified by future consultations between the Governments, and the implementation of activities is contingent upon the availability of funding and other resources from the Governments and other sources. The Parties may pursue these activities through initial consultations, exchange of data and sharing of experiences, such as by means of digital

video conferences and electronic communications as well as through developing and approving specific Memorandums of Understanding that define and delineate concrete areas of cooperation between both Governments, if needed.

Work Plan Activities

Areas	Activities	Sub-activities / details	Participants
1. Institutional and Policy Strengthening for Effective Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Laws, Including Natural Resource-related Laws.	1.1 Strengthening environmental laws, regulations, and policies.		
		1.1.1. Develop position of Environmental Economist within MoEnv, considering similar positions within EPA as models. Working with EPA staff with appropriate expertise, if available, to build MoEnv understanding of relevant issues related to this position	<u>U.S.:</u> AID, EPA <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv
	1.2 Building capacity for ensuring compliance with environmental laws and regulations	1.2.1. Training for environmental inspectors, permitting officials, the Environmental Rangers, prosecutors and judges. A Joint task force will develop the training programs/materials.	<u>U.S.:</u> EPA, USDA/FS <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv, Rangers Dept., JIJ, Police Academy, others
		1.2.2. Multilateral Environmental Enforcement Training (under MEPP)	<u>U.S.:</u> USDA, DOS <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv, Rangers' Dept., others
		1.2.3. Study tours for appropriate Jordanian Officials in the United States to learn from U.S. experience in the administration of environmental enforcement and compliance and other related training areas.	<u>U.S.:</u> AID, EPA, USDA/FS <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv, Rangers' Dept., RSCN, others
		1.2.4. Facilitate establishment of Jordan's Environment Fund. The objective of the Fund is to provide financial assistance on a competitive basis to entities investing in projects that promote sustainable use of Jordan's natural resources and strengthen institutional capacity to comply with national environmental laws.	<u>U.S.:</u> AID <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv

Areas	Activities	Sub-activities / details	Participants
	1.3. Waste and Wastewater management and site remediation.	1.3.1. Establish an industrial wastewater tracking system. Cooperate on auditing and monitoring of industrial waste. Continue cooperation on issues related to management of industrial liquid and semi-solid waste.	<u>U.S.:</u> AID, <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv, others
		1.3.2. Continue to develop pilot programs for wastewater reuse. Support industrial estates in their wastewater management and implementation of Environmental Management Systems.	<u>U.S.:</u> AID <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv
		1.3.3. Assist with Russaifah site remediation efforts through assisting MoEnv in developing terms of reference for the site remediation contractor and providing guidance on conducting an environmentally sound remediation.	<u>U.S.:</u> AID, EPA <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv, GAM, others
		1.3.4 Medical and hazardous waste management (ICMA)	<u>U.S.:</u> AID, <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv, others
		1.3.5 Review of design documents of the planned new GAM Slaughterhouse, water and wastewater audits of the current slaughterhouse	<u>US:</u> AID <u>Jordan:</u> GAM
2. Biodiversity Conservation and Improved Management of Protected Areas and Other Ecologically Important Ecosystems.	2.1 CITES	2.1.1. Assess strengths and weaknesses of Jordan's environmental laws and policies as they relate to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) generally and recommend improvements. Review and recommend changes to improve CITES implementing legislation with the aim of assisting Jordan to reach Category One under the CITES National Legislation Project. This assistance may include involvement from the CITES Secretariat. Build capacity within the Management and Scientific Authorities, as well as within the protected areas system to strengthen single species management, overall biodiversity conservation, and capacity for ecotourism.	<u>U.S.:</u> DOI <u>Jordan:</u> RSCN, MoEnv, MoA

Areas	Activities	Sub-activities / details	Participants
	2.2. Parks, protected areas, ecologically important ecosystems.	2.1.2. Launch training of personnel with CITES responsibilities: Targeted personnel could include, <i>inter alia</i> , staff in the Management and Scientific Authorities, permitting officials, customs inspectors, law enforcement agents, protected area staff and NGOs.	<u>U.S.:</u> DOI <u>Jordan:</u> RSCN, MoEnv, MoA, others
		2.2.1. Park Ranger exchanges: Conduct a fellowship program for conservation personnel that will pair qualified candidates with U.S. National Parks to provide hands-on field experience with endangered species management practices for a period of six to eight weeks. Program fellows will also participate in a workshop in Washington, D.C. on endangered species issues where they will be able to meet and network with other fellows and DOI headquarters staff.	<u>U.S.:</u> DOI <u>Jordan:</u> RSCN
		2.2.2. Extend cooperation on protected park management networks in Jordan.	<u>U.S.:</u> AID, DOI <u>Jordan:</u> RSCN, MoTA, MoEnv
		2.2.3. Support efforts to rehabilitate native grasslands and promote sustainable grazing activities in Jordan's Badia.	<u>U.S:</u> USDA/FS <u>Jordan:</u> Badia Research Center
		2.2.4. Develop a National Program of Action to address land-based sources of pollution and reduce/control coastal degradation. Through this program, develop economical and financial instruments for recovery of coasts in the context of sustainable ecotourism development	<u>U.S.:</u> NOAA <u>Jordan:</u> ASEZA, others
3. Improved Private Sector Environmental Performance.	3.1. Environmental management systems/cleaner production.	3.1.1. Promote environmental management systems and/or pollution prevention/cleaner production plans.	<u>U.S.:</u> AID, EPA <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv, others
	3.2 Industry Env Awards Program	3.2.1. Work with Jordan's Ministry of Environment to further develop awards programs and build upon work done in USAID RIAL I project.	<u>U.S.:</u> AID <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv

Areas	Activities	Sub-activities / details	Participants
4. Environmental Education, Transparency, and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making and Enforcement.	4.1. Outreach and education.	4.1.1. Strengthen ties between public and private sector individuals and institutions, including academia, NGOs, and industry groups. USAID through SABEQ is assisting MoEnv in developing a stakeholders' consultation policy and procedures.	<u>U.S.:</u> AID, DOS <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv,
		4.1.2. Develop a publication on U.S. government environmental programs in Jordan.	<u>U.S.:</u> AID, DOS, EPA <u>Jordan:</u> MoEnv and others
		4.1.3. Continue Agricultural Outreach. Support Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture programs at the Thaghret Asfour site, including hands on demonstrations of organic farming	<u>U.S.:</u> AID <u>Jordan:</u> MoA
		4.1.4. Continue School Outreach Programs for children between ages 9 and 11. At local schools: teaching principles of environmental stewardship and consequences of human activities on the environment. Includes a play, physical models, and outreach materials.	<u>U.S.:</u> AID <u>Jordan:</u> MoE, RSCN, NGOs
	4.2 NGO Capacity Building	4.2.1 Build capacity of local NGOs to conduct public outreach and environmental education campaigns. Targeted issues could include CITES awareness, endangered species protection, biodiversity conservation, and ecotourism potential.	<u>U.S.:</u> USAID, DOS, DOI, EPA <u>Jordan:</u> RSCN, other NGOs
		4.2.2 Host environmental education specialists from Jordan's newly established forest conservation NGO (Al Shajarah) at the annual World Forestry Center International Educators Institute (IEI) in Portland, Oregon.	<u>U.S.:</u> USDA/FS <u>Jordan:</u> Al Shajarah

Benchmarks, Monitoring, and Evaluation

As the Joint Forum further defines cooperative programs, projects, and activities under its Work Program, it intends to encourage implementers of activities within the work plan to strive to identify performance indicators and benchmarks to measure the progress made in accomplishing or otherwise furthering the goals and objectives of such programs, projects, and activities and to facilitate public reporting of that progress. To the degree that the Governments use independent sources of monitoring data and evaluation to assess progress, they intend to collaborate with those other sources in identifying suitable performance indicators and benchmarks.

Through their participation in the Joint Forum, the Governments intend to seek and consider input from relevant local, regional, and international organizations regarding relevant environmental conditions and indicators and views on the utility of cooperation under this Work Program. The Governments also plan to encourage public participation in setting goals for and implementing environmental collaboration, and to make information on activities carried out under the Work Program available to the public on a regular basis.

The Parties recognize that a variety of government agencies and civil society groups will be involved in implementing the programs and projects under this Work Program and that the agency or group that leads implementation for a particular program or project will strive to be responsible for public participation, information disclosure, and performance tracking related to that program or project.

This plan was approved and signed by the leaders of the two delegations at the conclusion of the U.S.-Jordan Joint Forum on Environmental Technical Cooperation on March 3, 2009.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE
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FOR THE GOVERNMENT
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ANNEX 1: LIST OF AGENCIES / ACRONYMS

United States	Jordan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of Agriculture (USDA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ U.S. Forest Service (FS) ▪ Department of Commerce (DOC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ▪ Department of Interior (DOI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ U.S. National Park Service (NPS) ○ U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ○ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) ○ U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) ▪ Department of State (DOS) ▪ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ▪ U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Environment (MoEnv) ▪ Environmental Rangers Department ▪ Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) ▪ Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) ▪ Ministry of Education (MoE) ▪ Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) ▪ Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)